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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	FMP-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	DRL-09	G-00	/039W	
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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0470
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 001158

GENEVA FOR RMA

ROME PASS FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PREF, PGOV, RW
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINS RWAWDAN POSITION OF
FOOD TRANSHIPMENTS

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT

2. PRIME MINISTER TWAGIRAMUNGU SUMMONED THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS AT 0900 APRIL 14 FOR A MEETING WHICH OPENED 45
MINUTES LATER BY A READING OF A TWO-PAGE EXPLANATION OF
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WHY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LET THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

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TRUCKS CROSS INTO ZAIRE AT BUKAVU. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN HAD US WATCH A BRITISH TELEVISION PROGRAM WHICH SHOWED PROPAGANDISTS AND POLITICIANS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT HARANGUING CAMP POPULATIONS, YOUNG MEN BEING LOADED UP TO BE TRANSPORTED TO KAMANYOLA CAMP AND A 23-PERSON MILITIA TEAM TRAINING WITH RIFLES, SPEARS AND ARROWS OUTSIDE THAT CAMP. THE COMMENTATOR CLAIMED THAT THESE SCENES WOULD BE EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING TO THE UNHCR.

3. PICKING UP ON THIS THEME, THE PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZED THE INCAPACITY OF UNHCR AND ICRC TO CONTROL ELEMENTS THAT WERE OPENLY PROCLAIMING THEIR INTENTION TO DESTABILIZE THE REGIME AND PREPARING FOR RENEWAL OF ARMED CONFLICT BY FIGHTING THEIR WAY BACK INTO POWER. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THAT PEOPLE CONTINUE TO FEED THE ONES WHO WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST US, HE CONCLUDED.

4. UNHCR RES REP NOTED HOW DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX THE SITUATION WAS IN ZAIRE WHERE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHO WAS WHOM AND WHERE THE UNHCR WAS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS BEYOND ITS MANDATE, LIKE TRAINING SECURITY FORCES JUST TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. HE EMPHASIZED THE PRIMORDIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT REFUGEES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO DO THINGS WHICH VIOLATED THEIR STATUS.

5. I WEIGHED IN NOTING THAT WE ALL AGREED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS WERE NOT BEING FULLY UPHELD IN ZAIRE AND THAT THE BORDER SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS AND DESTABILIZING. BUT IT WAS A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN
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WHICH WE ALL, INCLUDING THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND FOR WHICH WE ALL TOGETHER WOULD HAVE TO SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION. IT WAS NOT RIGHT TO SINGLE OUT THE UNHCR WHICH HAD CONSCIENTIOUSLY AVOIDED GIVING AID TO KNOWN MILITARY AND WAS TRYING TO COPE WITH A MOST COMPLEX CHALLENGE. THE UGANDAN AMBASSADOR THEN, ON BEHALF OF THE CORPS, THANKED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE BRIEFING, ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO TAPE AND ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO OUR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

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6. COMMENT. WHAT IS CURIOUS IN THIS SCENARIO IS THAT THIS FOOTAGE WAS AVAILABLE IN ENGLAND FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS. TWO WEEKS AGO, WE TALKED TO AN INVESTIGATOR WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE FILMING. THAT THIS "DAMNING EVIDENCE" SHOULD BE SURFACED JUST NOW SEEMS TO FIT INTO A PUZZLE WHOSE PIECES INCLUDE: KAGAME'S VEILED THREAT LAST FRIDAY; THE TRIP OF PRESIDENTIAL CABINET DIRECTOR GASANA TO GBADOLITE ON TUESDAY BEARING LISTS OF 500 PERPETRATORS, RECENT INCURSIONS FROM ZAIRE, AND RWANDAN EQUIPMENT WHICH ZAIRE STILL HOLDS; THE SUSPICIOUS ATTACK NIGHT OF APRIL 11 ON BIVARA CAMP IN ZAIRE BY UNIFORMED TROOPS WHOM THE DATT BELIEVES WERE PROBABLY RPA; AND, THE PROSPECTS OF A REGIONAL SUMMIT BEING BROKERED BY MOBUTU AND MUSEVENI.

7. AS FOR THE CRITICAL QUESTION OF FOOD SHIPMENTS, THE WFP REPRESENTATIVE TOLD US HE WILL UNLOAD THE 20 TRAILERS IN NOCK SO HE CAN GET HIS TRUCKS BACK ON THE ROAD. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER HINTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO TALK

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THROUGH THE IMMEDIATE TRUCKING QUESTION. BY PUTTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STOPPAGE ON THE PREFECTORAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS LEFT ITSELF SOME WIGGLE ROOM ON THE QUESTION. THEY USED THE SAME TACTIC IN REFERENCE TO THIS WEEK'S ANTI-UNAMIR RIOTS IN GISENYI, BLAMING THE VIOLENCE ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS INSISTENT, HOWEVER, ON THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEEDING AND SUSTAINING FOR MURDERERS AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION NOT TO ABET THAT EFFORT ANY MORE. RAWSON

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